

Transferability and Student Data

Agency/Program #: 5102-01-I1

Division:

Program: OCHE Administration

Agency Name:	Montana University System/Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education		
Agency Contact:	Tyler Trevor, Associate Commissioner of Higher Education	444-0307	
LFC Contact:	Senator Dave Wanzonried		
LFD Liaison:	Pam Joehler	444-2722	
OBPP Liaison:	Suzan Scott, Budget Analyst	444-4895	

Program or Project Description:

To improve the transferability of student credits/coursework between the campuses of the Montana University System (including the community colleges).

Appropriation, Expenditure and Source

Fund Name:	2008		2009		Approp & Expenditure numbers are as of August 29, 2008
	Approp.	Expended	Approp.	Expended	
General Fund	1,291,099	259,290	253,901	26,144	
State Special					
Federal Funds					
Total:	\$1,291,099	\$259,290	\$253,901	\$26,144	

Legislative Goal(s):

That retention rates and completion rates for students that have transferred between campuses and transferred in coursework from other institutions are at the same level as retention and completion rates for students that have not transferred.

Legislative Performance Measure

All undergraduate courses in the MUS will go through a common course numbering process.

All courses deemed to be significantly similar must possess the same prefix, course number, title and credits; and directly transfer on one-to-one basis.

Common course numbering will result in a transparent computerized program that demonstrates transferable courses across the MUS.

2009 Biennium Significant Milestones:

		Completion Dates	
		Target	Actual
1	Hiring of 2.5 FTE (Director of Transferability, Computer Programmer, and Computer Support Specialist).	July 2007	July 2007
2	Identify 11 faculty councils	Sept 2007	Sept 2007
3	Approve Board of Regents policy mandating Common Course Numbering	Nov 2007	Nov 2007
4	Centralized, web-based computer program developed to demonstrate transferability of courses throughout the MUS	Sept 2008	Jan 2009
5	Undergraduate courses in 11 disciplines will be common course numbered	Sept 2008	Jan 2009
6	Undergraduate courses in 11 more disciplines will be common course numbered	Sept 2009	July 2009

Agency Performance Report:

Faculty council reviews

Over 5,200 courses in 16 disciplines at 24 postsecondary institutions reviewed
August 2007 – August 2008

Common course proposals

Matrices for 3 disciplines prepared and proposed, May 2008

Matrices for 11 additional disciplines prepared and proposed, August, 2008

MUS sends proposed course matrices to faculty councils for review & feedback throughout August 2008

Faculty councils deliver their feedback on accuracy, completeness and alignment of course matrices by September 30, 2008

Faculty councils deliver their student learning outcomes for equivalent courses by October 31, 2008

Commissioner assigns numbers for all courses in at least 12 disciplines – December 5, 2008

Resolution of CCNs, troubleshooting for implementation – September-December 2008

LFD ASSESSMENT: On Track

DATA RELEVANCE: Yes the data reported addresses and is relative to legislative goals

APPROPRIATION STATUS: Updated appropriation and expenditure data were provided as requested. Report data indicates, however that only about 15% of the funds were expended in FY 2008. \$979,000 of the FY 2008 appropriated amount is a biennial appropriation; none of this was expended in FY 2008.

COMMENTS/ISSUES: The agency has met early milestones. However, remaining significant milestones are projected for completion January 2009 and July 2009. The workgroup may want to recommend to the LFC that the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education provide a progress report on this initiative in January or February 2009 to the joint appropriations education subcommittee.

OPTIONS:

Request progress report for joint appropriations subcommittee

Version	Date	Author
	9/22/2008	Joehler

Change Description
LFD narrative added